

(c) If so, the steps being taken to combat this social evil ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE (DR. (SHRIMATI) PHULRENU GUHA) :

(a) On the basis of a rapid survey of beggary in the capital conducted in September, 1969 by the Delhi Administration, the number of beggars in the Capital has been estimated at 3518. The survey undertaken by the Delhi School of Social Work, in 1959, had indicated the population of beggars in the Capital as 3,300. Taking into account the tremendous rise in the general population of the city during the last ten years, the problem of beggary on the basis of the two surveys cannot be said to have shown any marked increase.

(b) As the recent survey has been conducted after a gap of about 10 years, the exact situation of beggars over the last two years could not be assessed.

(c) The problem of beggary in the capital is being tackled through the enforcement of the Bombay Prevention of Begging Act, 1959 which has been brought into force in Delhi. Necessary machinery and statutory institutions, namely Seva Kutir Delhi, Seva Kendra, Narela, Mahila Sadan, Mehrauli and Home for Old and Disabled Beggars, Narela, have been provided under the Act. Four more Beggary Homes have been proposed for the next year. The persons apprehended under the Begging Act are given training in vocations like printing, washing, cane work, masonry, soap making, gardening, agricultural work, Bakery etc.

Incidence of Crime on Indian Railway

327. SHRI RAM SINGH AYARWAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the incidence of crime on the Indian Railways has increased during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NANDA) : (a) and (b) . Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Arrest of Cheat Natwar Lal at Jaipur

328. SHRI RAM SINGH AYARWAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a notorious cheat Natwar Lal was arrested at Jaipur by the Railway Police; and

(b) if so, to what extent this cheat has cheated the Railways ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NANDA) : (a) Yes.

(b) So far only one case of cheating by Shri Natwar Lal has come to notice on Western Railway. The value of consignment involved was Rs. 22,000/-. The entire property was, however, recovered.

Re-Opening of Dhanushkodi Railway Line

329. SHRI RAM SINGH AYARWAL : SHRI N.K. SANGHI : SHRI DEIVEEKAN :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a demand has been made to reopen the Dhanushkodi Railway line for the transportation of repatriates from Ceylon; and

(b) if so, the decision taken by Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NANDA) : (a) Yes.

(b) Due to the impracticability of maintaining a railway track in the area between Rameswaram Road and Dhanushkodi, where the topography has changed considerably due to sea-erosion and tidal waves, it is not possible to restore the railway line between Rameswaram Road and Dhanushkodi.